

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
REQUEST FOR FILING NATIONAL PHASE OF
PCT APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495

To: Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



00909

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Atty Dkt: P 282616 /
M# /Client Ref.

From: Pillsbury Winthrop LLP, IP Group:

Date: December 17, 2001

This is a **REQUEST** for **FILING** a PCT/USA National Phase Application based on:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. International Application | 2. International Filing Date | 3. Earliest Priority Date Claimed |
| <u>PCT/CA00/00729</u> ✓
↑ country code | <u>19/June/2000</u> ✓
Day MONTH Year | <u>18/June/1999</u> ✓
Day MONTH Year
(use item 2 if no earlier priority) |
4. Measured from the earliest priority date in item 3, this PCT/USA National Phase Application Request is being filed within:
- (a) ☐ 20 months from above item 3 date (b) ☒ 30 months from above item 3 date,
- (c) Therefore, the due date (unextendable) is December 18, 2001
5. Title of Invention WAGERING SYSTEM
6. Inventor(s) Andrew M. STRONACH ✓

Applicant herewith submits the following under 35 U.S.C. 371 to effect filing:

7. ☒ Please immediately start national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)).
8. ☒ **A copy of the International Application** as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (file in English but, if in foreign language, file only if not transmitted to PTO by the International Bureau) including:
- a. ☐ Request;
- b. ☒ Abstract;
- c. 20 pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- d. 7 sheet(s) Drawing which are ☐ informal ☒ formal of size ☒ A4 ☐ 11"
9. ☒ **A copy of the International Application has been transmitted by the International Bureau.**
10. **A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))**
- a. ☐ is transmitted herewith including: (1) ☐ Request; (2) ☐ Abstract;
- (3) _____ pgs. Spec. and Claims;
- (4) _____ sheet(s) Drawing which are:
- ☐ informal ☐ formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 11"
- b. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in English.
- c. ☐ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
- d. ☐ Translation verification attached (not required now).

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11. ☒ Please see the attached Preliminary Amendment
12. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., before 18th month from first priority date above in item 3, are transmitted herewith (file only if in English) including:
13. ☒ PCT Article 19 claim amendments (if any) have been transmitted by the International Bureau
14. ☐ Translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., of **claim amendments** made before 18th month, is attached (**required by 20th month from the date in item 3 if box 4(a) above is X'd, or 30th month if box 4(b) is X'd, or else amendments will be considered canceled**).
15. **A declaration of the inventor** (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))
 a. ☐ is submitted herewith ☐ Original ☐ Facsimile/Copy
 b. ☒ is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
16. **An International Search Report (ISR):**
 a. Was prepared by ☒ European Patent Office ☐ Japanese Patent Office ☐ Other
 b. ☒ has been transmitted by the international Bureau to PTO.
 c. ☐ copy herewith (___ pg(s).) ☐ plus Annex of family members (___ pg(s).).
17. **International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER):**
 a. ☒ has been transmitted (if this letter is filed after 28 months from date in item 3) in English by the International Bureau with Annexes (if any) in original language.
 b. ☐ copy herewith in English.
 c.1 ☐ IPER Annex(es) in original language ("Annexes" are amendments made to claims/spec/drawings during Examination) including attached amended:
 c.2 ☐ Specification/claim pages # ___ claims # ___
 Dwg Sheets # ___
 d. ☐ Translation of Annex(es) to IPER (**required by 30th month due date, or else annexed amendments will be considered canceled**).
18. **Information Disclosure Statement** including:
 a. ☐ Attached Form PTO-1449 listing documents
 b. ☐ Attached copies of documents listed on Form PTO-1449
 c. ☒ A concise explanation of relevance of ISR references is given in the ISR.
19. ☐ **Assignment** document and Cover Sheet for recording are attached. Please mail the recorded assignment document back to the person whose signature, name and address appear at the end of this letter.
20. ☐ Copy of Power to IA agent.
21. ☐ **Drawings** (complete only if 8d or 10a(4) not completed): ___ sheet(s) per set: ☐ 1 set informal; ☐ Formal of size ☐ A4 ☐ 11"
22. Small Entity Status ☐ is **Not** claimed ☒ is claimed (**pre-filing confirmation required**)
- 22(a) ___ (No.) Small Entity Statement(s) enclosed (since 9/8/00 Small Entity Statements(s) not essential to make claim)
23. **Priority** is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 based on the priority claim and the certified copy, both filed in the International Application during the international stage based on the filing in (country) United States of America of:
- | | Application No. | Filing Date | | Application No. | Filing Date |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-----|-----------------|-------------|
| (1) | 60/140,115 | 18 June 1999 | (2) | _____ | _____ |
| (3) | _____ | _____ | (4) | _____ | _____ |
| (5) | _____ | _____ | (6) | _____ | _____ |
- a. ☒ See Form PCT/IB/304 sent to US/DO with copy of priority documents. If copy has not been received, please proceed promptly to obtain same from the IB.
- b. ☐ Copy of Form PCT/IB/304 attached.

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24. Attached:

25 Per Item 17.c.2, **cancel original** pages #_____, claims #_____, Drawing Sheets #**26. Calculation of the U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1)) and other fees is as follows:**Based on amended claim(s) per above item(s) ☐ 12, ☐ 14, ☐ 17, ☐ 25 (hilitte)

Total Effective Claims	13	minus 20 =	0	x \$18/\$9	=	\$0	966/967
Independent Claims	2	minus 3 =	0	x \$84/\$42	=	\$0	964/965
If any proper (ignore improper) Multiple Dependent claim is present,				add \$280/\$140	+	0	968/969

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(4)): → → BASIC FEE REQUIRED, NOW → → → →

A. If country code letters in item 1 are **not** "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL", "NZ", "IN" or "ZA"

See item 16 re:

1. Search Report was <u>not</u> prepared by EPO or JPO -----	add \$1,040/\$52		960/961
	0		
2. Search Report was prepared by EPO or JPO -----	add \$890/\$445	+445	970/971

SKIP B, C, D AND E UNLESS country code letters in item 1 are "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL", "NZ", "IN", "ZA", "LC" or "PH"

(X) → <input type="checkbox"/> B. If <u>USPTO</u> did not issue <u>both</u> International Search Report (ISR) and (if box 4(b) above is X'd) the International Examination Report (IPER), -----	add \$1,040/\$52	+0	960/961
	0		
(only) (one) → <input type="checkbox"/> C. If <u>USPTO</u> issued ISR but not IPER (or box 4(a) above is X'd), -----	add \$740/\$370	+0	958/959
(of)			
(these) (4) → <input type="checkbox"/> D. If <u>USPTO</u> issued IPER but IPER Sec. V boxes <u>not all</u> 3 YES, -----	add \$710/\$355	+0	956/957
(boxes)			
→ <input type="checkbox"/> E. If international preliminary examination fee was paid to <u>USPTO</u> and Rules 492(a)(4) and 496(b) satisfied (in IPER Sec. V <u>all</u> 3 boxes <u>must</u> be YES for <u>all</u> claims), --	add \$100/\$50	+0	962/963

27. **SUBTOTAL = \$445**

28. If Assignment box 19 above is X'd, add Assignment Recording fee of ---\$40 +0 (581)

29. If box 15a is x'd, determine whether inventorship on Declaration is different than in international stage. If yes, add (per Rule 497(d)) ---\$130 +0 (098)

30. Attached is a check to cover the ----- **TOTAL FEES \$445**

Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975

Our Order No. 027574 | 282616
C# M#

00909

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any missing or insufficient fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 and 492 (missing or insufficient fee only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting Official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account/Order Nos. shown above for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.This CHARGE STATEMENT **does not** authorize charge of the issue fee until/unless an issue fee transmittal form is filed**Pillsbury Winthrop LLP**
Intellectual Property GroupBy Atty: Jean-Paul HoffmanReg. No. 42663Sig: [Signature]Fax: (703) 905-2500
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Atty/Sec: JH/JPH

NOTE: File in duplicate with 2 postcard receipts (PAT-103) & attachments.

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 DEC 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Inventor(s): STRONACH

Filed: Herewith

Title: WAGERING SYSTEM

December 17, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the top of the first page, just under the title, insert

☒ --This application is the National Phase of International Application
PCT/CA00/00792 filed 19 June 2000 which designated the U.S.

and that International Application

☒ was ☐ was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.--

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
Intellectual Property Group

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WAGERING SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a parimutuel betting system. In particular, the present invention relates to a betting and gaming system and method which simplifies the placement of parimutuel wagers on race events.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Wagering on racing events, such as horse races and dog races, typically takes the form of either fixed odds wagering or parimutuel wagering. Fixed odds wagering is a system by which the return for a particular wager is determined in accordance with the payout odds assigned to the associated bet. Fixed odds wagering is popular from the perspective of wager recipients (eg. betting parlours) since it places a limit on the magnitude of the payout in the event of a win. Fixed odds wagering is also
15 popular from the perspective of wagerers since it provides a measure of certainty on the possible payout. However, as the odds assigned to a particular bet can diminish as the total amount wagered increases, fixed odds wagering is not be particularly attractive to some wagerers since the payout odds for their bet may diminish in the minutes before the start of the sporting event.

20 Parimutuel wagering is a system by which a wagering pool is established for the receipt of bets, and the proceeds of the pool are divided amongst holders of winning tickets in accordance with the number of winning ticket holders and the magnitude of each wager. Parimutuel wagering is popular from the perspective of the wager recipients (eg. race track owners), since the recipient typically receives a fixed
25 percentage of each amount bet prior to the payout to the winning ticket holders. Also, parimutuel wagering is popular from the perspective of the wagerer since the return on a particular bet is proportional to the size of the wagering pool and, therefore, can exceed the fixed odds return of the bet. However, parimutuel wagering also suffers from a number of disadvantages.

30 Firstly, parimutuel wagering requires a knowledge of betting terminology (eg. win, place, show, triactor, exactor). Secondly, parimutuel wagering requires the wagerer to be conversant with betting forms, and to have knowledge of race

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contestant handicapping. Since these factors act as an impediment to the placement of bets, and therefore limit the revenue experienced by wager recipients, attempts have been made to improve on the conventional parimutuel wagering systems to encourage wagerers to place wagers on race events.

5 For instance, Goldberg (US 5,374,060) teaches a method of wagering which expands upon the number of wagering opportunities available for racetrack betting. The method taught by Goldberg involves providing wagerers with wagering cards configured with small circles corresponding to the desired contestant for each of a plurality of races. Each wagering card allows "win"-type wagering, "place"-type
10 wagering, "show"-type wagering, or "win, place, show"-type wagering. Each wagerer selects desired contestants for each race and tenders the completed card to a bet collector. The wagerer also tenders a bet which is included in the purse associated with the wager type. The purse available for payment for each wager type is then divided equally amongst winning card holders. Typically, payoffs are paid to
15 wagerers who select all or a portion of the correct winning contestants for their wager type.

 Haddad (US 5,743,525) teaches a sporting event parimutuel wagering system which facilitates wagering without requiring significant wagering knowledge by the wagerer. The wagering system taught by Haddad involves first assigning race
20 participants a unique number. Then, wagerers place wagers on the race participants by selecting one or more of the numbers and paying a bet amount. At the end of the race event, the numbers associated with the first three horses are added together, and the total is then compared with the sum of the numbers selected by each wagerer. Wagerers whose sums match the calculated total share in the proceeds of the pool
25 associated with the race event.

[Weingardt (US 5,275,400) teaches an electronic gaming system which provides an electronic video poker game, an electronic slot game, an electronic blackjack game or an electronic craps game. The gaming system accepts one of a plurality of different bet amounts, and establishes a separate parimutuel wagering pool
30 associated with each allowed bet amount, with the allocation of each bet to the wagering pools being determined in accordance with a formula based on the amount bet. The gaming system provides a payout to a winning player from the wagering

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pool corresponding to the amount bet, and to encourage the placement of larger-sized bets the payout amounts increase with the amount bet.]

Although the race event parimutuel betting systems taught by Goldberg and Haddad offer improvements over the conventional race event parimutuel betting systems, they are limited in their ability to enhance revenue for wager recipients. For instance, wagerers of Goldberg's wagering system must still have knowledge of betting terminology. Neither Goldberg nor Haddad increase the available wagering opportunities significantly beyond those available with conventional race event parimutuel betting systems. Also, the betting interfaces suggested by Goldberg and Haddad do little to attract and maintain the attention of novice wagerers. [Although Weingardt offers improvements over the betting systems taught by Goldberg and Haddad, Weingardt only allows wagering on the particular game implemented by the electronic gaming system and, therefore would not be suitable for encouraging wagering on race events.] Therefore, there remains a need for a parimutuel betting and gaming system which encourages wagering on race events.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, there is provided a wagering system and a method for facilitating wagering on race events, which addresses deficiencies of the prior art.

The wagering system, according to the present invention, includes a wagering processor, a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor, and a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor. The wagering processor is configured to process wagers received from wagerers on wagering events, with each wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome. The bet allocator is configured to allocate each bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome. The payout processor is configured to facilitate payouts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

The method for facilitating wagering includes the steps of (1) receiving wagers from wagerers on wagering events, each said wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome; (2)

25 The bet allocator includes an activity correlation table associating each said betting pool with one of the activity outcomes, and an allocation processor in communication with the activity correlation table for allocating each bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities. The payout processor includes an event outcome receiver for receiving
30 indications of the actual outcomes, an outcome correlator in communication with the event outcome receiver for identifying the winning wagerers from the received indications and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator in communication with

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the outcome correlator for allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective winning wagerers in accordance with each respective predicted outcome.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 The preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram of the wagering network, according to the present invention, depicting the wagering facilities, the wagering systems, and the communications network;

10 Fig. 2 is a schematic view of the wagering system shown in Fig. 1, depicting the multimedia display, the user interface, the currency receiver, the currency dispensing device, and the card read/write device;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of further details of the wagering system shown in Fig. 2, depicting the wagering processor, the bet allocator, and the payout processor;

15 Fig. 4 is a schematic view of a sample BINGO game activity card implemented by the wagering system for placing wagers; and

Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c comprise a flow chart describing the wagering steps facilitated by the wagering system.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning to Fig. 1, a wagering network, denoted generally as 100, is shown comprising a plurality of wagering facilities 102, a plurality of wagering systems 200, and a communications network 104 for facilitating communication between the
25 wagering facilities 102 and the wagering systems 200. Preferably, the communications network 104 comprises a closed network, however the communications network 104 may instead comprise an open network, such as the Internet, if the open network has sufficient bandwidth for adequately servicing the wagering systems 200. Further, typically the communications network 104 is a land-
30 based network, however the communications network 104 may instead comprise a wireless communications network.

Preferably, the display 202 includes a CRT display 202a for displaying a video image of the game activity, and a speaker 202b for playing an audio accompaniment to the video image. The user interface 204 is provided to allow wagerers to enter wagers on the game activity and to initiate a cash payout of the wagerer's winnings. Preferably, the user interface 204 is implemented as a keyboard separate from the CRT display 202a, however the user interface 204 may also be implemented as a touch sensitive membrane provided on the surface of the CRT display 200a if desired. The wagering system 200 also includes a data processor 214 (discussed below) in

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communication with the display 202, the user interface 204, the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, and the card read/write device 210 for facilitating wagering on the game activity.

It should be understood that the configuration shown in Fig. 2 is only one
5 implementation of the wagering system 200, and that other configurations are also envisaged. For instance, in one variation, not shown, the wagering system 200 excludes the currency receiver 206 and the currency dispensing device 208, and maintains the card read/write device 210 as the sole means for receiving wagers and for providing payouts. In another variation, not shown, the card read/write device 210
10 is configured to receive wagers on game cards. In this variation, the wagerer may be provided with a game card, such as a bingo card, which has a Universal bar code and indicia preassigned on the card, and the card read/write device 210 is configured to obtain the wagerer's wager by reading the Universal bar code. Alternately, the wagerer may be provided with a blank game card which allows the wagerer to enter
15 the desired indicia on the card, such as with pencil, and the card read/write device 210 is configured to read and identify the pencilled indicia. Other configurations of the wagering system 200 will be apparent to those of ordinary skill.

As shown in Fig. 3, the data processor 214 comprises a network interface 216 for communicating with the wagering facilities 102 over the communications network
20 104, and a central processing unit (CPU) 218 in communication with the display 202, the user interface 204, the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, the card read/write device 210, and the network interface 216. The data processor 214 also includes a non-volatile memory (NVM) 220 and a volatile memory (RAM) 222 in communication with the CPU 218.

25 The NVM 220 includes an odds buffer 224 for receiving odds data from the wagering facilities 102, and an account buffer 226 for recording the monetary value of funds in the wagerer's's wagering account. The NVM 220 also includes processor instructions for the CPU 218 which establish in the RAM 222 a memory object defining a wagering processor 228, a memory object defining a bet allocator 230, and
30 a memory object defining a payout processor 232.

The wagering processor 228 is configured to process wagers received from wagerers on the racing events, with each wager including a predicted outcome of at

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least one of the racing events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome. However, the wagering processor 228 does not directly receive wagers on the race events, but instead receives wagers or outcome predictions on the outcome of the activity displayed on the display 202 and converts the outcome predictions to wagers on race candidates of the race events. To effect the conversion between activity outcome predictions and race candidate wagers, the wagering processor 228 includes an indicia correlation table 234 which includes records associating activity indicia with each race candidate of the race events.

The wagering processor 228 also includes a wagering interface 236 for receiving indicia selections from wagerers using the wagering system 200, and an indicia processor 238 in communication with the wagering interface 236 and the indicia correlation table 234 for deriving wagers on the race events from the indicia selections in accordance with the associated activity rules. The indicia processor 238 includes an event outcome predictor 240 for determining the probability of occurrence of each race event outcome, an activity outcome predictor 242 in communication with the indicia correlation table 234 for determining and providing the indicia correlation table 234 with probability data of the occurrence of each activity outcome, and a probability correlator 244 in communication with the event outcome predictor 240 and the activity outcome predictor 242 for deriving wagers (ie. predicted outcomes) on the race events from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

The indicia correlation table 234 includes records associating activity indicia with each race candidate of the race events. Preferably, the indicia listed in the indicia correlation table 234 are associated with the race candidates in accordance with their respective probability of occurrence. Specifically, since the odds information associated with each race candidate will often suggest that at least one of the race candidates will be more likely to win than other race candidates, and since at least one of the activity outcomes will be more likely to occur than other activity outcomes, preferably each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 is associated with one or more indicia in accordance with the odds associated with each respective race candidate and the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

As an example, if the wagering system 200 is configured to play CRAPS, then there are only 11 possible activity outcomes which can be displayed at the wagering interface 236, each having the following outcome probabilities:

5	<u>Activity Outcome</u>	<u>Indicia Required</u>	<u>Probability of Occurrence</u>
	2	1,1	1/36
	3	1,2; 2,1	2/36
	4	1,3; 2,2; 3,1	3/36
	5	1,4; 2,3; 3,2; 4,1	4/36
10	6	1,5; 2,4; 3,3; 4,2; 5,1	5/36
	7	1,6; 2,5; 3,4; 4,3; 5,2; 6,1	6/36
	8	2,6; 3,5; 4,4; 5,3; 6,2	5/36
	9	3,6; 4,5; 5,4; 6,3	4/36
	10	4,6; 5,5; 6,4	3/36
15	11	5,6; 6,5	2/36
	12	6,6	1/36

Accordingly, in one implementation of the invention, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a CRAPS table template on the CRT display 202a and the user interface user interface 204 is configured for receiving CRAPS wagers. Each race event has only six race candidates, and the race candidate having the highest probability of winning is associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,6; 2,5; 3,4; 4,3; 5,2; 6,1} (activity outcome 7), the race candidate having the next highest probability of winning is associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,5; 2,4; 2,6; 3,3; 3,5; 4,2; 4,4; 5,1; 5,3; 6,2} (activity outcomes 6, 8) and so on, with the race candidate having the lowest probability of winning being associated in the indicia correlation table 234 with indicia {1,1; 6,6} (activity outcomes 2, 12). Alternately, since there are 36 possible activity outcomes from a die pair throw, in a race event having only nine race candidates, in another implementation of the invention each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 is associated with 4 different indicia without regard to the associated probabilities of occurrence.

Preferably, the bet allocator 230 is configured to allocate each amount bet amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each outcome prediction provided by the wagering processor 228. For instance, if the wagering system 200 is configured to play BINGO using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4, with each race candidate listed in the indicia correlation table 234 being uniquely associated with one

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of the game indicia 306 marked on the game activity card 300, then each set of column or row of game indicia 306 can be associated with one or more race candidate wager types (eg. WIN, PLACE, SHOW, EXACTOR, TRIACTOR, SUPERFECTA). Since a SHOW wager has the highest probability of success (followed in decreasing probability of success by a PLACE wager, a WIN wager, an EXACTOR wager, a TRIACTOR wager, a SUPERFECTA wager, a PICK 5 wager, a PICK 6 wager, and a PICK ALL wager), the bet allocator 230 would allocate, for example, 20% of the amount bet to a SHOW betting pool, 20% to a PLACE betting pool, 15% to a WIN betting pool, 10% to an EXACTOR betting pool, 9% to a TRIACTOR betting pool, 8% to a SUPERFECTA betting pool, 7% to a PICK 5 betting pool, 6% to a PICK 6 betting pool, and 5% to a PICK ALL betting pool. As will be appreciated from the foregoing example, the allocation of the bet amount amongst the betting pools need not coincide exactly with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

On the other hand, since CRAPS has only 6 different probability levels, the bet allocator 230 would only allocate the bet amount amongst 6 different betting pools, for example the WIN, PLACE, SHOW, EXACTOR, TRIACTOR, and SUPERFECTA betting pools. As will be apparent, the allocation of the bet amount amongst these 6 betting pools would result in a different distribution than that described above for BINGO.

To allocate each amount bet, as described above, the bet allocator 230 includes an activity correlation table 246 which includes records associating the betting pools with the possible activity outcomes of the activity implemented by the wagering interface 236. The records of the activity correlation table 246 also specify the probability of occurrence (ie. the probability of a wagerer receiving a payout from the respective betting pool) associated with each betting pool. The bet allocator 230 also includes an allocation processor 248 in communication with the activity correlation table 246 for determining and providing the activity correlation table 246 with the probability data for each betting pool, and for allocating each amount bet amongst the betting pools in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome.

The activity correlation table 246 includes records associating the betting pools with outcomes of the activity. Preferably, the betting pools listed in the activity

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correlation table 246 are associated with the activity outcomes in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each activity outcome. For instance, in one implementation of the invention, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a CRAPS table template on the CRT display 202a, and the wagering facilities 102

5 establish 6 parimutuel betting pools for each wagering system 200 configured for playing CRAPS, with activity outcome 7 being associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the first betting pool, activity outcomes 6, 8 being associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the second betting pool, and so on, with activity outcomes 2, 12 being associated in the activity correlation table 226 with the sixth

10 betting pool.

Alternately, since there are 11 unique activity outcomes in CRAPS {2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12}, in another implementation of the invention the wagering facilities 102 establish 11 parimutuel betting pools for each wagering system 200 configured for playing CRAPS, with each betting pool being associated in the activity

15 correlation table 246 with a respective one of the activity outcomes without regard to the associated probabilities of occurrence. In this variation, preferably the bet allocator 230 allocates the bet amount equally amongst all 11 betting pools.

In yet another implementation, the wagering interface 236 is configured to depict a BINGO game card template on the CRT display 202a using, for example, the

20 game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4. In accordance with this latter implementation, the wagering facilities 102 establish a first set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of a respective column 302 on the game activity card 300, another set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion

25 of a respective row 304 on the game activity card 300, and another parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with completion of the entire game activity card 300.

In this implementation, the completion of a single column 302 of the game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first, second, third and fourth race

30 candidate in any race event (ie. a SUPERFECTA wager), the completion of a single row 304 of the game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first (second, third or fourth) race candidate in all the race events, and the completion of the entire

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game activity card 300 equates to correctly predicting the first, second, third and fourth race candidate in all the race events (ie. a PICK ALL wager). Due to the relatively low probability of a novice wagerer correctly completing any single column 302 or row 304 of the game activity card 300, the wagering facilities 102 also establish a set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of the first two cells of game indicia 306 of a respective column 302 on the game activity card 300 (ie. an EXACTOR wager), and a set of parimutuel betting pools each associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of the first three cells of game indicia 306 of a respective column 302 on the game activity card 300 (ie. a TRIACTOR wager). Also, the wagering facilities 102 also establish a parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of five of the cells in the first row of the game indicia 306 (ie. a PICK 5 wager), and a parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the completion of five of the cells in the first row of the game indicia 306 (ie. a PICK 6 wager).

In still another implementation, the wagering system 200 is again configured for playing BINGO using, for example, the game activity card 300 shown in Fig. 4. In accordance with this latter implementation, the wagering facilities 102 establish a first parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of all 24 indicia, a second parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 20 and 23 indicia, a third parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 16 and 19 indicia, a fourth parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 226 with the correct identification of between 12 and 15 indicia, and a fifth parimutuel betting pool associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the correct identification of between 8 and 11 indicia. To account for the possibility that the requirement for payout of any particular betting pool is not satisfied, the wagering facilities 102 also establish a sixth parimutuel betting pool which is associated in the activity correlation table 246 with the greatest number of correctly identified indicia. Preferably, the sixth parimutuel betting pool receives the betting amounts allocated to the betting pool for

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which the payout requirements were not met. Other betting pool association schemes will be apparent, and are encompassed by the present invention.

The payout processor 232 is configured to facilitate payouts from the betting pools to the winning wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and the actual outcomes of the events. To effect this result, the payout processor 232
5 comprises an event outcome receiver 250 for receiving data on the actual event outcomes, an outcome correlator 252 in communication with the event outcome receiver 250 for identifying the winning wagerers from the received outcome data and the predicted outcomes, and a payout allocator 254 in communication with the
10 outcome correlator 252 for allocating credit amounts (ie a portion of the bet amounts deposited in a particular betting pool) from each betting pool amongst the winning wagerers who had a portion of their bet amounts deposited in the particular betting pool. The payout allocator 254 is in communication with the currency receiver 206, the currency dispensing device 208, the card read/write device 210, and the account
15 buffer 226, and is configured for crediting the wagerer's wagering account with money received by the currency receiver 206. The payout allocator 254 is also configured to credit the account of the wager using the wagering system 200 with any credits stored on the electronic/magnetic-stripe card which is inserted in the card read/write device 210, and to update the wagerer's wagering account in accordance
20 with the amount wagered and the outcome of the wager.

A preferred embodiment of the process implemented by the wagering network 100, and the wagering system 200 in particular, will now be described with reference to Fig. 5. At step 400, the wagering facilities 102 transmit racing information, such as the names and post positions of the race candidates in each race event, start time
25 information for each race event, and odds information for each race candidate. Each wagering system 200 receives the information over the communications network 104 and, at step 402, displays a game activity template on the display 202 together with the time remaining until the start of the next race event. The term "wagering period" will be used hereafter to denote the period immediately preceding the start of a race
30 event during which wagers may be received. Each wagering system 200 stores the received odds information in the odds buffer 224.

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At step 404, the payout processor 232 determines whether the wagerer has deposited money into the currency receiver 206, or has inserted an electronic/magnetic-stripe wagerer's card into the card read/write device 210, thereby establishing a wagering account in the account buffer 226. In one variation, the wagering system 200 is in communication with banking computers and the payout processor 232 establishes a wagering account by electronically transferring funds from the wagerer's bank account, after the wagerer provides the payout processor 232 with the appropriate PIN and bank account number, via the user interface 204.

If no wagering account has been established, the wagering system 200 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining at step 402. On the other hand, if a wagering account has been established, at step 406 the payout processor 232 determines whether the wagering period has expired. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has expired, the wagering system 200 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining until start of the next wagering period at step 402.

If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has not expired, at step 408 the payout processor 232 waits for a bet amount and an indicia selection to be entered via the user interface 204 and the wagering interface 236. As will be appreciated, the wagering interface 236 ensures that the indicia selected by the wagerer comply with the rules associated for performing the game activity displayed by the wagering system 200. Once a bet amount is selected, at step 410 the payout processor 232 again determines whether the wagering period has expired. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has expired, the wagering system 200 continues to display the game activity template and the time remaining until start of the next wagering period at step 402. On the other hand, if the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering period has not expired, at step 412 the payout processor 232 queries the account buffer 226 to determine whether the wagerer has sufficient funds in its wagering account for the amount bet. If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering account does not have sufficient funds for the amount bet, the payout processor 232 displays a message on the display 202, requesting that the wagerer insert more funds or place a smaller bet. The payout processor 232 then waits for a new wager at step 408.

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If the payout processor 232 determines that the wagering account does have sufficient funds for the bet, the indicia processor 238 of the wagering processor 228 queries the indicia correlation table 234 with the indicia selection received by the wagering interface 236 to determine at least one predicted outcome for the race events. To do so, the activity outcome predictor 242 of the indicia processor 238 first calculates and stores probability data of the occurrence of each activity outcome in the indicia correlation table 234. Then, at step 414, the event outcome predictor 240 queries the odds buffer 224 to determine the probability of occurrence of each possible race event outcome. The probability correlator 244 then derives the predicted outcomes, at step 416, from the activity outcome probability data stored in the indicia correlation table 234 (via the activity outcome predictor 242) and the event outcome probabilities provided by the event outcome predictor 240. The wagering processor 228 then transmits the predicted outcomes to the bet allocator 230.

Once the predicted outcomes are determined, the bet allocator 230 allocates the amount bet amongst the parimutuel betting pools applicable to the indicia selection. To do so, the allocation processor 248 of the bet allocator 230 queries the activity correlation table 246 with the outcome predictions, at step 418, to determine the betting pools associated with the outcome predictions. The allocation processor 248 then obtains the probability data associated with each of the associated betting pools, at step 420, and apportions the bet amount (received from the wagering interface 236) in accordance with probability data. At step 422, the bet allocator 230 transmits the bet amounts, as apportioned in step 420, to the wagering facilities 102 for inclusion into the respective betting pools. After the wagering period expires, the wagering facilities 102 provide the wagering systems 200 with updated information on the size of each betting pool, and the number of wagers who placed on each betting pool.

After one of the race events is complete, at step 424 the wagering facilities 102 transmit to the payout processor 232 event data indicative of the actual outcome of the race event. Upon receipt of the event data by the event outcome receiver 250, at step 426 the outcome correlator 252 determines from the event data and the predicted outcomes (provided by the wagering processor 228) whether any of the wagerer's wagers were successful. If not, the payout processor 232 continues to wait, at step

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424, until all the race events upon which the wagerer has wagered have taken place. If the payout processor 232 determines, at step 428, that all of the race events have taken place, the process returns to step 400 for the entry of another wager.

On the other hand, if the outcome correlator 252 determines, at step 426, that
5 at least one of the wagerer's wagers was successful, at step 430 the payout allocator 254 allocates a credit amount from the associated betting pool to the account buffer 226 in accordance with the size of the associated betting pool and the number of wagers placed on the betting pool. The payout processor 232 updates the account information stored on the electronic or magnetic-stripe card (if present), and then
10 determines at step 432 whether all of the race events have taken place. If not, the process returns to step 424 and waits for receipt of the next event data. On the other hand, if the payout processor 232 determines that all the race events have taken place, the wagerer can then obtain a payout of the winnings at step 434 by removing the electronic or magnetic-stripe card from the card read/write device 210. Alternately, if
15 no electronic or magnetic-stripe card is used, the wagerer can initiate a payout by sending a suitable command to the payout processor 232 via the touch sensitive membrane of the display 202, thereby causing a cash payout via the currency dispensing device 208. In the variation where the wagering system 200 is in communication with banking computers, the wagerer may also initiate payout to the
20 wagerer's bank account, after the wagerer provides the payout processor 232 with the appropriate PIN and bank account number, entered via the user interface 204.

The present invention is defined by the claims appended hereto, with the foregoing description being illustrative of the preferred embodiment of the invention. Those of ordinary skill may envisage certain additions, deletions and/or modifications
25 to the described embodiment, which although not explicitly described herein, do not depart from the scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A wagering system comprising:

a wagering processor for deriving wagers on wagering events from activity outcome predictions received from wagerers, each activity outcome prediction defining a predicted outcome for a wagering activity having a plurality of possible activity outcomes, each said wager including a bet amount and at least one predicted event outcome of one of the wagering events;

a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor for allocating each said bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the possible activity outcomes for the associated activity; and

a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor for facilitating payouts from the betting pools to winning ones of the wagerers in accordance with the predicted outcomes and actual outcomes of the events.

2. The wagering system according to claim 1, wherein each said wagering activity has indicia and rules for performance thereof, and the wagering processor comprises an indicia correlation table associating the indicia with participants of the events in accordance with the rules, a wagering interface for receiving indicia selections from the wagerers, and an indicia processor in communication with the wagering interface and the indicia correlation table for deriving the predicted event outcomes from the indicia selections.

3. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes, and the indicia processor comprises an event outcome predictor for determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome, an activity outcome predictor for determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and a probability correlator in communication with the event outcome predictor and the activity outcome predictor for deriving the predicted event outcomes from the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

4. The wagering system according to claim 2, wherein the wagering interface is configured for providing the wagerers with a template for facilitating performance of one of

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9. The method according to claim 8, wherein each said wagering event has a plurality of possible event outcomes, and the step of associating the activity indicia comprises the steps of determining an event outcome probability associated with each said possible event outcome and determining an activity outcome probability associated with each said possible activity outcome, and associating the activity indicia with the participants in accordance with the event outcome probabilities and the activity outcome probabilities.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of deriving wagers comprises the steps of providing a template for facilitating performance of one of the activities in accordance with the associated rules, and receiving the indicia selection via the template.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises allocating each said bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the associated activity outcome probabilities.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of allocating bet amounts comprises allocating each said bet amount equally amongst the betting pools.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the payout step comprises the steps of receiving indications of the actual outcomes, correlating the received indications with the predicted event outcomes to identify the winning wagerers, associating each said winning wagerer with at least one of the betting pools in accordance with each said respective predicted outcome, and for each said betting pool allocating the credit amounts amongst the respective associated winning wagerers.

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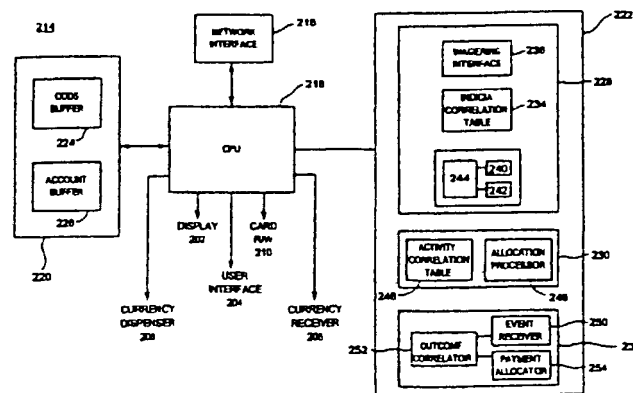
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(54) Title: WAGERING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A wagering system includes a wagering processor, a bet allocator in communication with the wagering processor, and a payout processor in communication with the wagering processor. The wagering processor is configured to process wagers received from wagerers on wagering events, with each wager including a predicted outcome of at least one of the events and a bet amount associated with the predicted outcome. The bet allocator is configured to allocate each bet amount amongst at least one of a plurality of parimutuel betting pools in accordance with the associated predicted outcome. Preferably, the wagering events are race events, and the wagering processor is configured to associate game activity indicia with participants of the racing events, and to determine the predicted outcomes from indicia selections and the rules associated with the game activities. Preferably, the bet allocator is configured to associate each betting pool with an outcome of one of the activities, and to allocate each bet amount amongst the betting pools in accordance with the probability of occurrence of each associated activity outcome.

Inventors: STRONACH
Matter No.: 282616
Title: WAGERING SYSTEM

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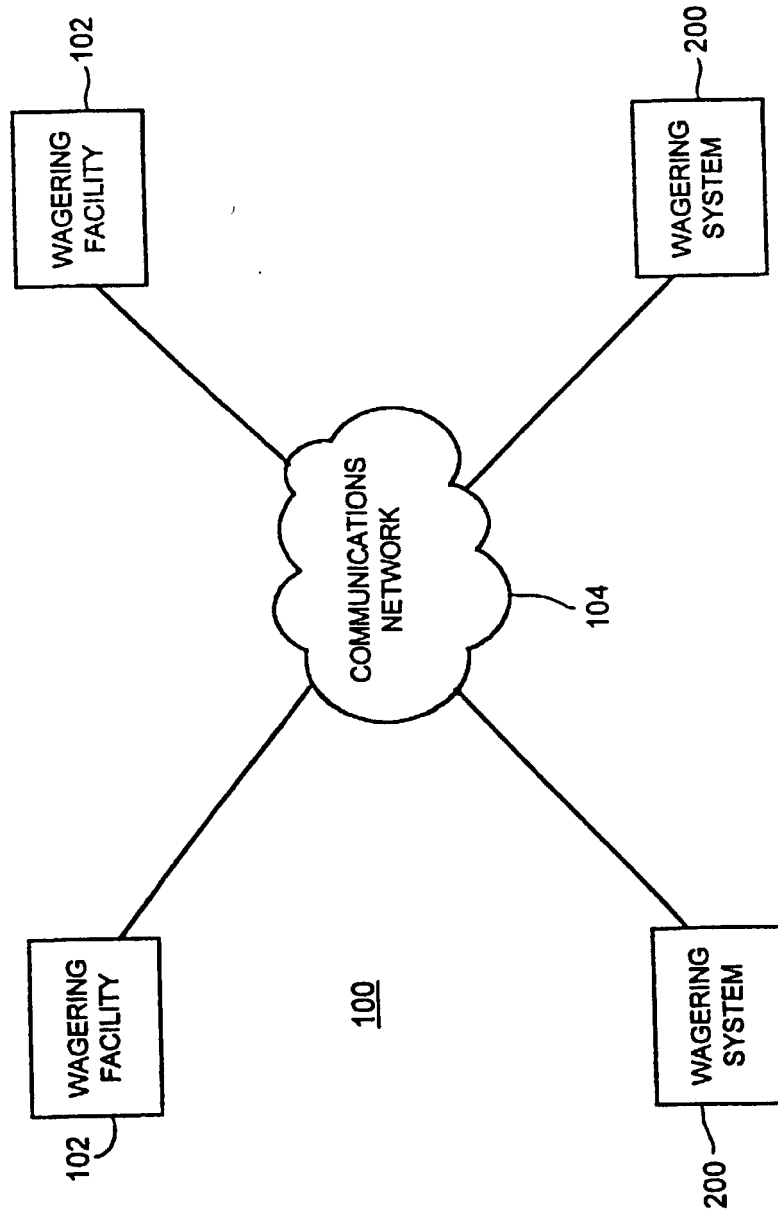


FIG. 1

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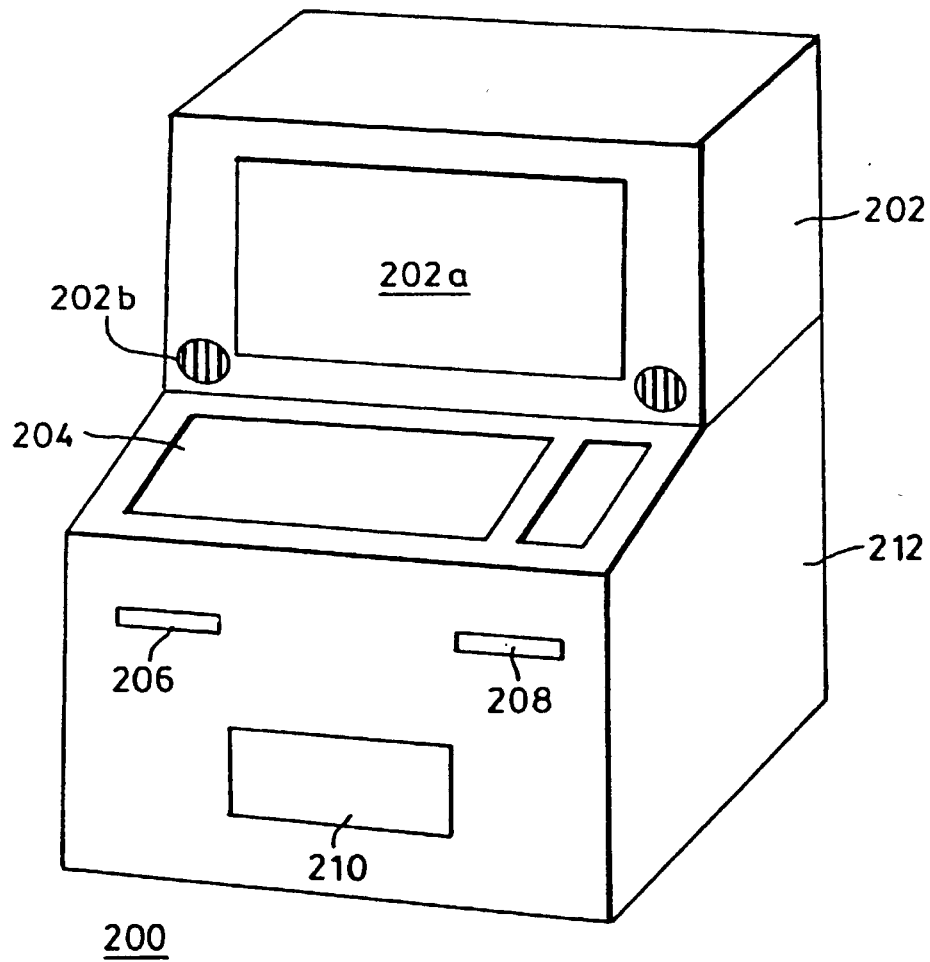


FIG. 2

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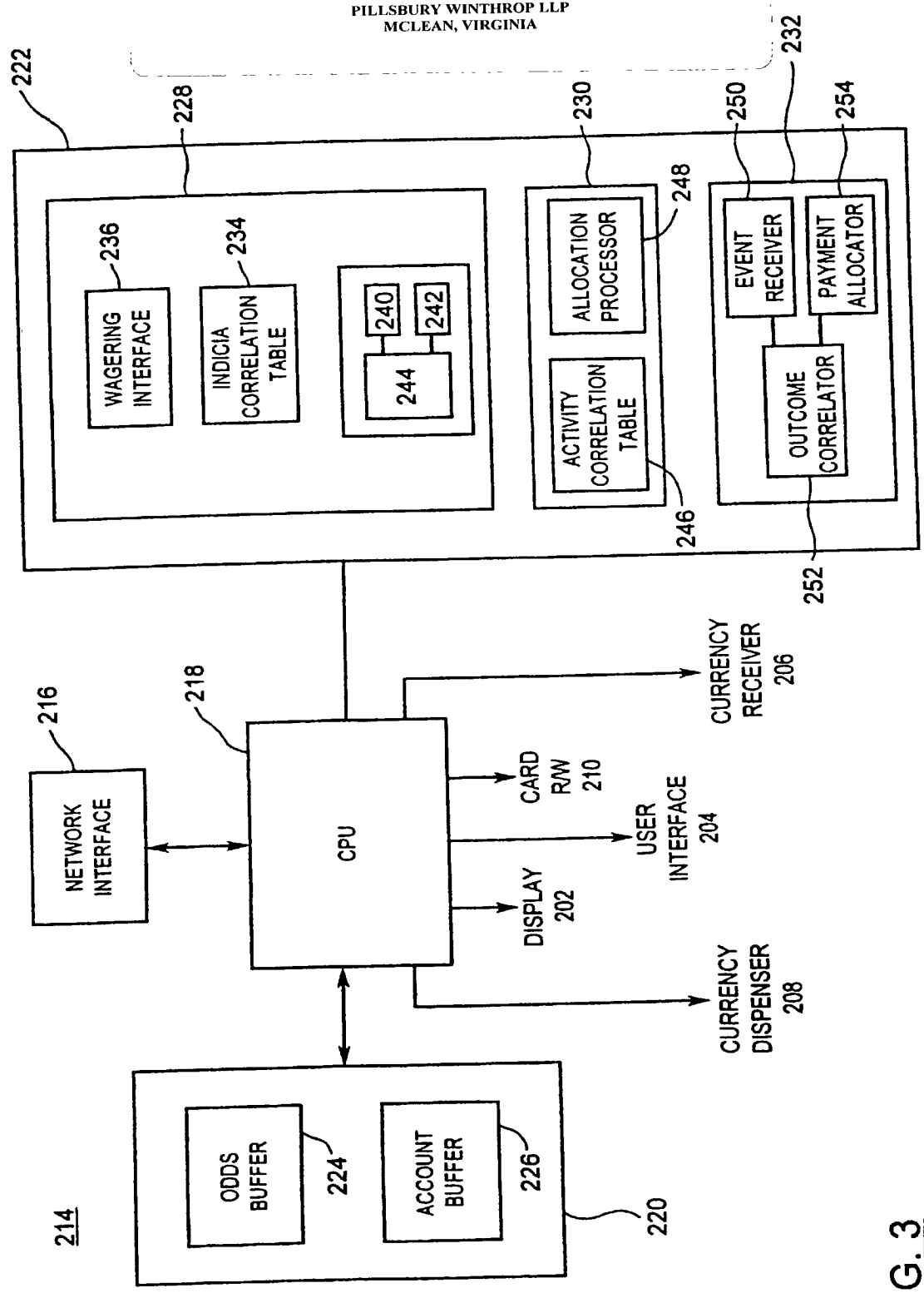
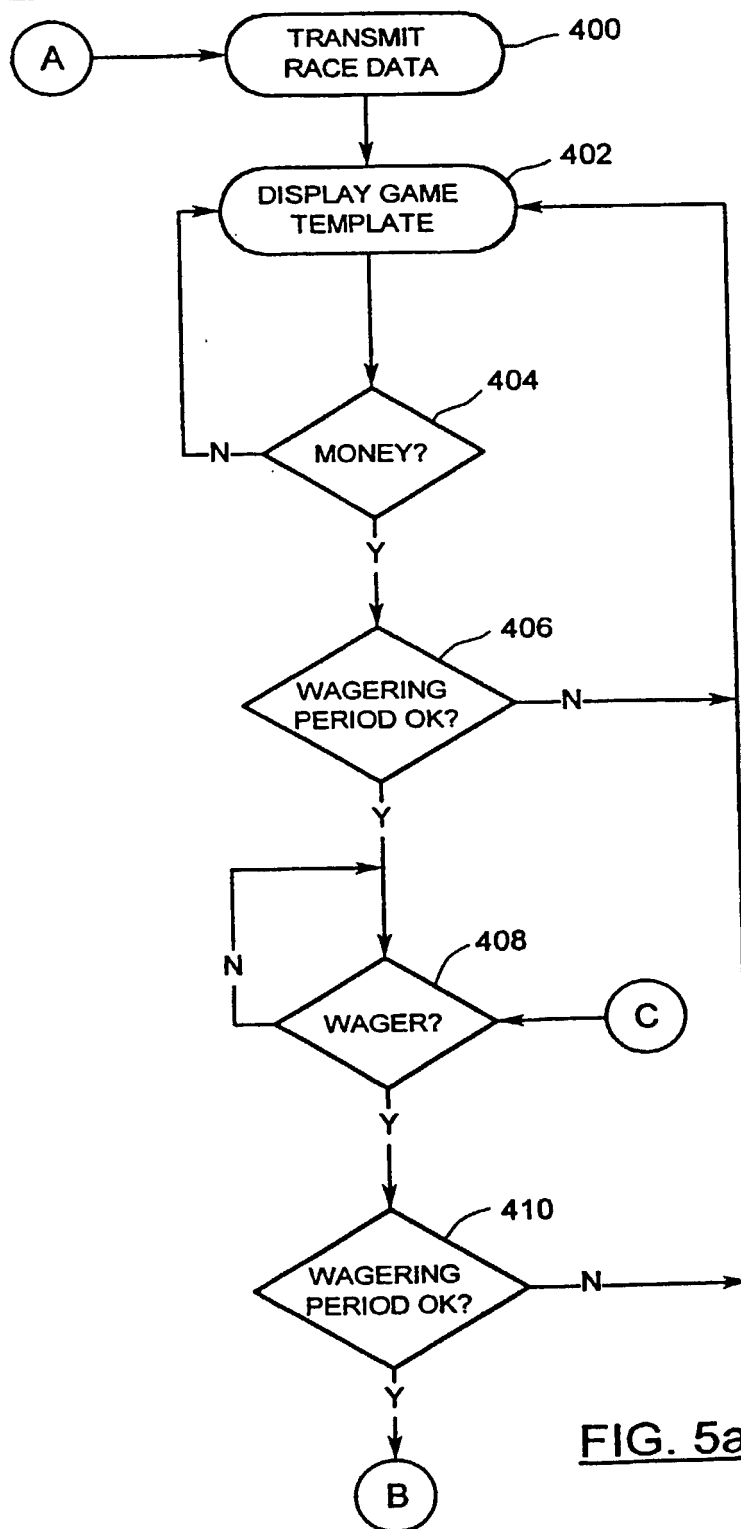


FIG. 3



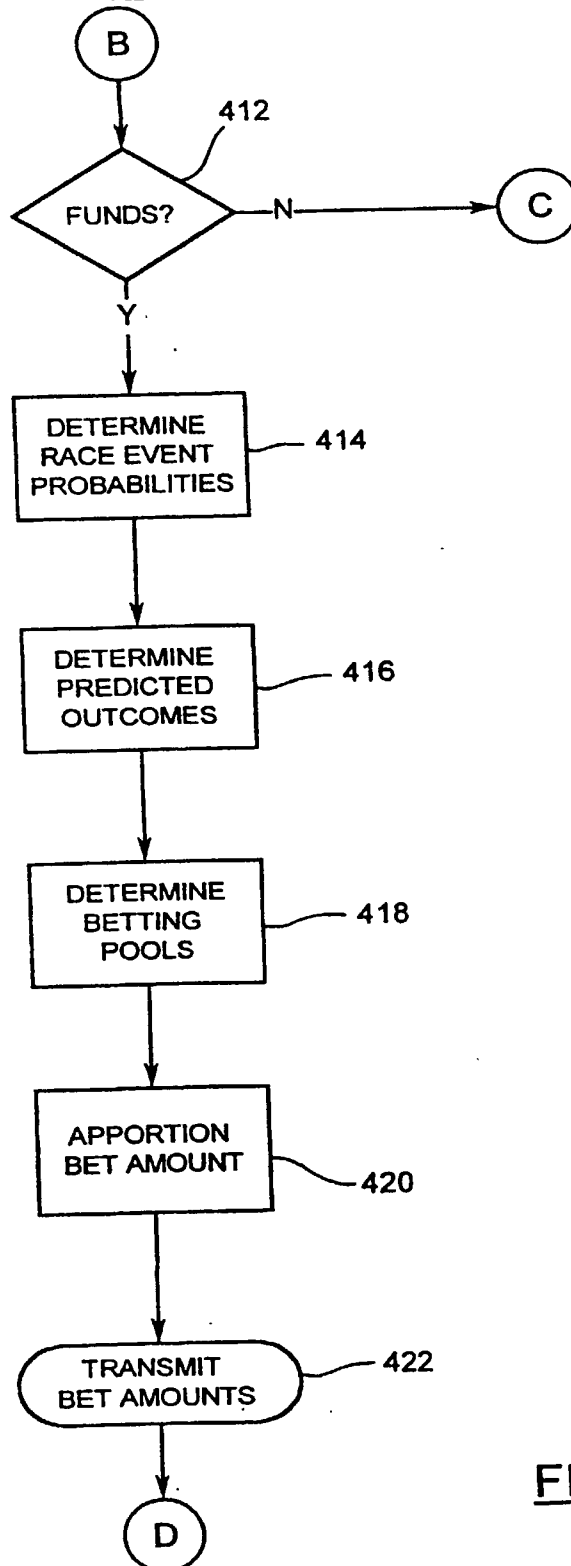


FIG. 5b

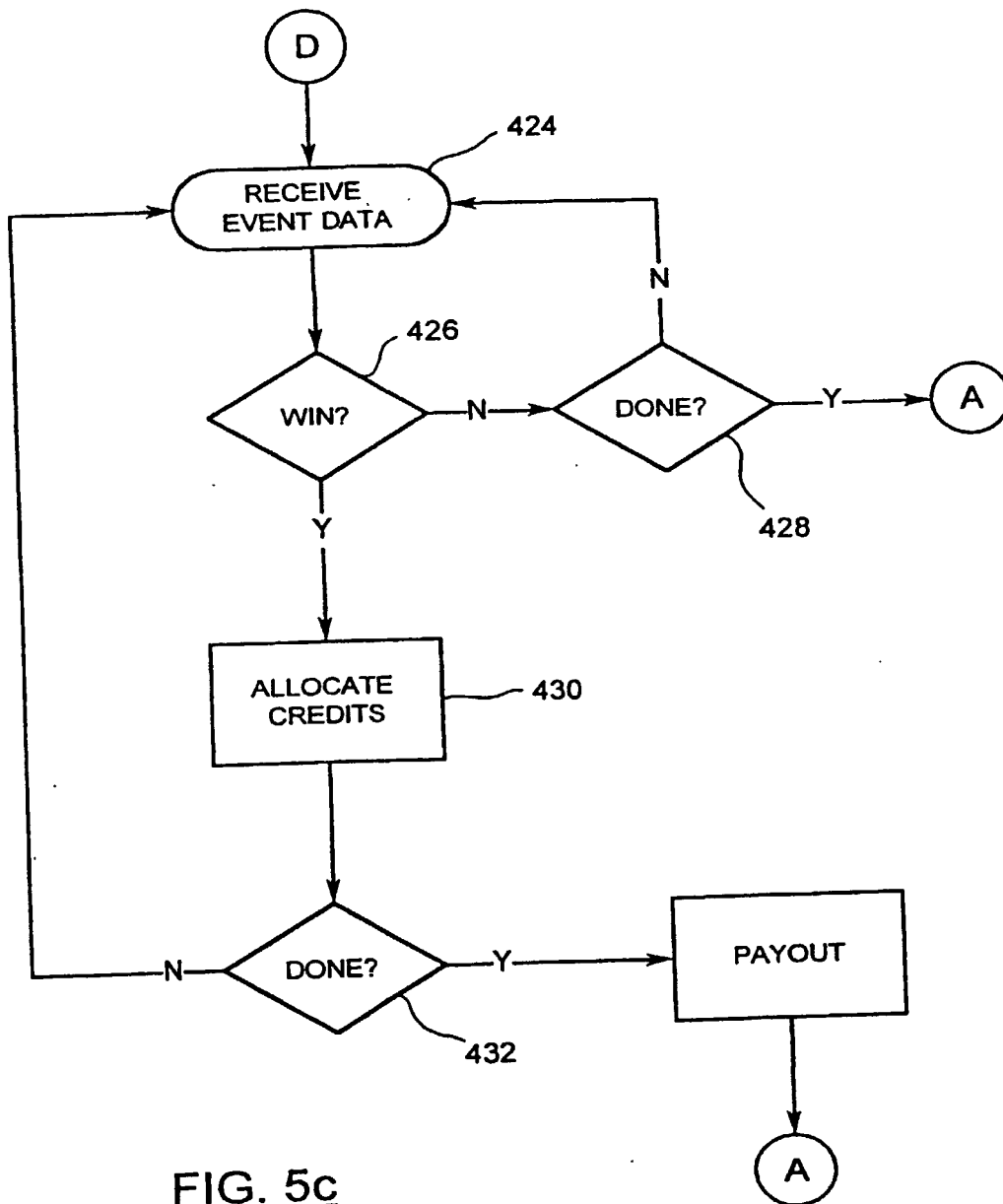


FIG. 5c

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FORM

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the specification of which (CHECK applicable BOX(ES))
X A. ☐ is attached hereto.
BOX(ES) → B. ☒ was filed on December 17, 2001 as U.S. Application No. 10/009,828
→ C. ☐ was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/ / on
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I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. Except as noted below, I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International Application which designated at least one other country than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International Application, filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority claimed, before the filing date of this application

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Number	Country	Day/MONTH/Year Filed	Date first Laid-open or Published	Date Patented or Granted	Priority NOT Claimed
PCT/CA00/00729	Canada	19 June 2000	28 December 2000		

If more prior foreign applications, X box at bottom and continue on attached page.

Except as noted below, I hereby claim domestic priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120 and/or 365(c) of the indicated United States applications listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below and, if this is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application, insofar as the subject matter disclosed and claimed in this application is in addition to that disclosed in such prior applications, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of each such prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL, NONPROVISIONAL AND/OR PCT APPLICATION(S)

Application No. (series code/serial no.)	Day/MONTH/Year Filed	Status	Priority NOT Claimed
60/140,115	18 June 1999	pending, abandoned, patented	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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☐ FOR ADDITIONAL INVENTORS see attached page.

☐ See additional foreign priorities on attached page (incorporated herein by reference).

Atty. Dkt. No. P282616

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Inventor(s): Andrew M. STRONACH
Appln. 10/009,828 or Patent No.: _____

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For: WAGERING SYSTEM

SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
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NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
<u>Andy Stronach</u>	_____	_____
Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
<u>May 31/02</u>	_____	_____
Date	Date	Date